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BLISTER RUST NEWS SERVICE

Clip Sheet No. 4. (For Maine)

(Not to be released before September 7, 1923)

Large Pines Become the Prey of the Blister Rust. Prompt Action
in Control Advisable.

Dr. Perley Spaulding, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, who studied blister rust conditions in Europe last year, has stated that "there is not the slightest doubt that the largest and oldest trees can be killed by the white-pine blister rust. The oldest white pine trees that I saw in Europe were in Switzerland. These were trees 118 years old with a diameter of 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 feet. These were killed or being killed by the blister rust. I doubt if larger white pine trees can be found in Europe, owing to the immense amount of large timber cut during the war. It is safe to say however, that the blister rust in Europe has killed the largest white pine trees that it has had a chance to attack, and there is not the slightest reason to expect that the much greater size of our western white pine and sugar pine in Idaho and California will protect them from the ravages of this disease."

The blister rust kills pines by girdling the bark, and thus preventing the flow of sap, which normally sustains life and promotes growth in the tree. After the bark is once penetrated the disease continues its growth until the tree dies. Small trees and limbs on large trees are killed within a few years, while a longer period of time is required for the rust to kill the big trees. During the past several years, many unprotected woodlots in the Northeastern States, containing young pines have suffered severe damage and in some cases half of the trees have been killed by the rust.

THE HISTORY OF THE

REIGN OF KING CHARLES THE FIRST

IN THE YEAR 1649

BY JOHN BURNET

OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

IN TWO VOLUMES

LONDON, Printed by J. Streater, at the Sign of the Gun, in St. Dunstons Church-yard, 1680.

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Recent reports show that the rust has been attacking merchantable timber, and inflicting serious damage to our largest pines. The writer has seen recently the infection area at Kittery Point, Maine. One white pine at this place was 14 inches in diameter, but short in its crown by 10 ft. because of the attack of the rust. Other pines ranging from 11 to 15 inches in diameter and up to 50 feet in height show infections on branch and trunk, and are slowly dying from the blister rust.

At Brunswick, Maine, a large white pine 24 inches in diameter and 50 feet in height has 15 feet of its top killed by the disease. In this same locality are pines up to 36 inches in diameter and 100 feet high. These too would probably have been attacked by this time, had not the owner been wise enough several years ago to destroy the currants and gooseberries which spread the rust.

Large ornamental pines which are infected by the blister rust may be saved, if the disease has not progressed too far, by the removal of diseased branches or areas, but this necessitates very careful work to find all of the infections, and a regular follow-up for a number of years, to insure freedom from the disease. In the forest, however, the removal of diseased branches from large trees is seldom practicable, on account of the cost, and here we must rely on prevention of infection in order to keep the pines healthy. This can be accomplished by the removal of all currants and gooseberries within 600 to 900 feet of the trees. Where stands of merchantable pine have become infected, advice concerning their treatment should be secured from the County Blister Rust Agent, in care of the Farm Bureau, or from the State Forester.

